



Intermontanus

Published by the Utah Association of Herpetologists

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Announcements

UTAH'S LAST YEAR

In the last newsletter I announced that a new Editor was needed to take over the production of *Intermontanus*. Since no one has volunteered for the position I have decided to dissolve the association at the end of this year. The next three newsletters will be produced to finish out everyone's subscriptions, although the July and November issues may be late as I will be very busy during these months. There is still time for a new Editor to step in and keep us going; I would be happy to assist. Please let me know soon if you wish to take on the position. —Breck Bartholomew

BASIN & RANGE SEMINAR

The Great Salt Lake Audubon Society invites you to the fourteenth Basin & Range Weekend Seminar. The seminar brings together students of nature, lay people, and professionals for field studies in the Great Basin Desert at Tom's Creek in the Deep Creek Mountains. Formal classes will be held all day Saturday, June 8 and Sunday morning, June 9.

Our purpose in offering this seminar is to provide participants with an opportunity to understand the unique basin and range ecology which sustains us. We seek to illuminate relationships among plant life, animals, humans and the physical environment. We emphasize the coexistence of earth and life forms rather than classification or identification.

Classes offered this year are: amphibians and reptiles, Snake Valley marsh ecosystems, grazing basin & range, desert plants & ethnobotany, raptors of the Great Basin, cultural history of the Great Basin, basin & range birds, and birds of the Deep Creek Mountains.

For more information about the seminar contact Keith Johnson at (801) 467-6497.

SUPPORT THE DECLINING AMPHIBIANS POPULATIONS TASK FORCE

This past year, through a combination of individual donations and a grant to support climate change activities, we were able to award seed grants to promising research activities. The central Task Force office continues to serve as the primary communications point for Task Force members and produces FROGLOG, which is now distributed electronically as well as by hard copy.

The Task Force Board, together with the Species Survival Commission fund raising specialist, have been working hard to raise funds to continue Task Force operations. However, fund raising in today's economic climate is very difficult. We have not been successful in obtaining further foundation support. In response to an emergency appeal to major herpetological societies throughout the world, we now have funds to keep the office operations functioning through this next Spring. We have begun a campaign to contact corporations that use amphibians in their advertising to ask them for significant donations, but we are not able to predict how successful that campaign will be. If you have ideas for raising money for the Task Force or know of some individuals who could

help us in our fund raising activities, please let me know.

The Task Force is continuing to strengthen the network of regional Working Groups. The newly formed issue-based Working Groups on Climatic & Atmospheric Change and Chemical Contaminants will provide significant leadership in these areas during the coming year. We need your support to keep the vital activities of the Task Force thriving. Thank you in advance for your support.

Make checks out to: "Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force" and mail to the following address. Ronald Heyer, Chair, DAPTF, NHB mail stop 180, Smithsonian Institution Washington, DC 20560, USA.

New Publications

The Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles has recently published two publications and announced a third. *Contributions to West Indian Herpetology: A Tribute to Albert Schwartz* edited by Robert Powell and Robert W. Henderson was recently released. This book (with contributions from 59 authors from the United States, Europe, and the West Indies) provides an introduction to Antillean herpetology, including a history of West Indian herpetology, an updated checklist of herpetofauna (including full literature citations for the original descriptions of all 622 species), and a section of color plates illustrating representatives of each genus of native West Indian amphibians and reptiles. Also included are papers providing a broad view of current herpetological research in the West Indies (with strong emphasis on field-oriented projects). All research chapters are abstracted in English, Spanish, and French. Clothbound, \$60.00.

Citations for the Original Descriptions of North American Amphibians and Reptiles, by Ellin Beltz is an excellent supplement to Collin's list of common and scientific names. This much needed compilation of the taxonomic literature for North American herpetology sells for \$7.00.

Stejneger's Book, *Herpetology of Japan* is a recognized herpetological classic. It is "still the only complete treatment of the herpetology of Japan, and even today is an indispensable reference book" (from the new introduction). Its geographic coverage is far greater than modern Japan and includes Taiwan, Korea, Manchuria, and adjacent coastal China as well as easternmost Siberia. Stejneger treats 156 species of amphibians and reptiles (13 salamanders, 36 frogs, 31 lizards, 62 snakes, and 14 turtles), including all marine species, and for each provides a complete synonymy, detailed descriptions of typical specimens, a discussion of variation, habitat, distribution, and a list of specimens with localities. Each species is illustrated, usually with multiple figures. There is an extensive, annotated bibliography, a gazetteer of localities, and an index.

Leonhard Stejneger (1851-1943), late curator of amphibians and reptiles at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, was one of America's leading herpetologists. He authored many careful taxonomic studies on amphibians and reptiles from many parts of the world and wrote several other books, including *Poisonous Snakes of North America* (1895), *Herpetology of Porto Rico* (1904), and a series of check lists of the North American herpetofauna (1917-

1943, with Thomas Barbour). Stejneger visited Japan three times and part of this book is based on his own field observations.

Masafumi Matsui (Kyoto University) provides commentary on Stejneger's work in Japan and updates his species names to current nomenclature. Matsui shows that Stejneger's 166 species today represent 180 taxa. Clothbound, \$58.00 (pre-publication for SSAR members, \$45.00). Due to be published September 1996.

For more information or to order any of the above three titles contact: Robert D. Aldridge, SSAR Publications Secretary, Department of Biology, St. Louis University, 3507 Laclede Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63103, phone (314) 977-3910, e-mail <ssar@sluvca.slu.edu>.

Veterinary Management of Tortoises and Turtles by Stuart McArthur was recently published by Blackwell Scientific. This book is an easy-to-read and practical guide to tortoise and turtle care for the veterinary practitioner. The text covers the common medical and surgical conditions encountered by veterinarians and offers detailed advice on their diagnosis and treatment. Sections include those on anatomy, nutrition, handling techniques and hibernation as well as infections, suitable drugs and dose rates, laboratory tests and radiographic techniques, use of anesthesia, surgical techniques including coeliotomy and the management of egg retention.

This book has been written with the help of many veterinarians, organizations and individuals involved in the welfare, breeding, conservation and treatment of Chelonia. Emphasis is placed on species most commonly encountered in captivity. Information is presented in an accessible format for quick reference with illustrations throughout. Paperback, \$47.95.

A Field Guide to Australian Frogs, by Barker, Grigg, and Tyler is a guide to the identification of more than 200 species which make up Australia's very diverse frog fauna. The book is lavishly illustrated with more than 250 color photographs, line diagrams and detailed distribution maps. Introductory chapters on the evolution, taxonomy, zoogeography and biology of frogs give interesting and accurate background information on the five families represented in Australia. Included is a detailed description of each species, with notes on similar species and summaries of distinguishing characteristics.

Identification is facilitated by keys which rely on features seen easily on living specimens and color photographs of almost all species.

The book has been designed for use by both amateur and professional naturalists. Published by Surrey Beatty & Sons, 43 Rickard Road, Chipping Norton, NSW 2170, Australia.

Krieger Publishing Company has released three new herp books. **A Guide to the Frogs and Toads of Belize**, by Meyer and Foster, both with extensive field experience in Belize and its environs, is the first guide to anurans of this region. This book describes species encountered in Belize and nearby Mexico and Guatemala. Global concern over declining amphibian populations has heightened interest in these fascinating creatures. Some, such as the red-eyed treefrog, are well known to amateurs, while a few have just recently become known to science. All 33 species, as well as the major habitat types in Belize, are illustrated in color. Belize, with its lush forests, is the destination of thousands of travelers annually; this book will be of interest to them, as well as to amateur and professional herpetologists, and those armchair naturalists who appreciate the rich diversity of the tropics (see review in this issue).

At the crossroads of two biogeographic realms, south Asia supports a highly diverse and distinct reptile fauna with 634 species represented. **Biogeography of the Reptiles of South Asia**, by Indraneil Das is an analysis of this fauna, highlighting its richness and endemism, the patterns and correlates of species diversity, affinities within the region and with extralimital fauna, and barriers to distribution and speciation. It includes over 150 references to the herpetofauna of south Asia as well as to the physiography of the region.

The Encyclopedia of Keeping and Breeding Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles by A.C. Highfield is a comprehensive and practical guide to maintaining and breeding both rare and common tortoises and turtles by one of the world's leading authorities on the subject. The book includes sections on natural habitats, reproductive biology, artificial incubation, designing accommodation, turtles and water quality, dietary management, parasitic diseases, and bacterial and viral diseases. Additional information is provided for a wide range of species.

For more information about these Krieger titles write: Krieger Publishing Company, P.O. Box 9542, Melbourne, FL 32902-9542, USA.

Utah Association of Herpetologists

Intermontanus

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(801) 752-0297

e-mail: Herpbooks@sisna.com

Everyone is invited to contribute to *Intermontanus*. Articles, notes, essays, book reviews, and other submissions should be type written or on computer disk (Macintosh or PC). However, hand written articles will be accepted from individuals who do not have access to computers or typewriters.

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Curiosity Corner

SALMONELLA!!!!

Stan Draper

I do not wish to make light of this very real concern, but we as herpetoculturists and herpetologists do not need to add fuel to the fire of sensationalism that has been surfacing lately about this bacteria and its connection to our charges.

Anytime a story relating an incident between humans and reptiles comes around, the press uses it to the fullest to boost sales and ratings, because they know about the "fear" of reptiles that infects a majority of people. But just as we, as reptile keepers, try to educate our friends, neighbors and others about our favorite animals, we must also do as much as possible to keep incidents, which become news headlines, from occurring.

Even though we can catch salmonellosis more easily from common items as chicken, beef and eggs that are raw or undercooked, it is not as newsworthy. There is however a possibility of contracting it from our reptiles—about 1 percent of all reported cases. Some of us may even have had a case of it and didn't realize it. The milder symptom of a couple of days of diarrhea is often written off as the stomach flu

or having eaten something that didn't agree with us.

The first thing to do is to assume that each and every one of your animals carries the bacteria. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in 1995 that 90 percent of reptiles carry *Salmonella*. The bacteria is shed through the fecal matter. You can have fecal samples tested by your veterinarian if you absolutely have to know and have unlimited cash reserves. Even if the tests come up negative it does not necessarily mean your animal is clean. The bacteria are not shed continuously. So just handle your animals like they are infected. They most likely are even if captive born.

I was asked by a friend's wife, who is pregnant, if they should medicate their iguanas (common carriers) to rid them of the bacteria. Absolutely not! First of all, if you do not completely rid the animal of the bacteria, then you have just made it stronger and more resistant to treatment should you contract it. Secondly, as we are still learning about these animals, it can not be said with absolute certainty, that they do not somehow need this bacteria to live properly. Just as we humans carry a lot of bacteria within our own gut to survive, so do reptiles.

COMMON SENSE, that rare commodity we all must use when dealing with our "infected" reptile. Here's a short list of things to do and not to do when around your animals.

- **Do not** eat or drink while cleaning or handling
- **Do** wash your hands thoroughly before handling food or children
- **Do not** kiss your animals to show affection (they couldn't care less and don't need your germs either)
- **Do not** wash cages, equipment or animals in the bathtub or sink without cleaning thoroughly with cleanser after you're finished
- **Do** keep high risk people away from the animals (i.e. already sick, on prescription drugs, immune compromised, pregnant and children under 5 years old)
- **Do** have anyone who handles one of your animals, wash their hands afterwards

Salmonella bacteria, of which there are about 2300 types, can survive for quite some time even under less than optimum conditions. Any surface that has been contacted by the bacteria can be infectious for years until properly cleaned. For this reason, even that old cage that you put aside dirty till later could contain viable bacteria. Be Careful!

As I said before, we as a group of individuals must do everything possible to keep incidents that inflame the uninformed public from happening. Keep yourself and your animals as clean as possible!

Book Review

LIZARD ECOLOGY: HISTORICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL PERSPECTIVES

Edited by Laurie J. Vitt and Eric R. Pianka. 1994. Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J. 403 pp Hardcover, \$39.95

Lara Carroll

For students of herpetology, the third generation of Lizard Ecology: Historical and Experimental Perspectives is a testament to the vitality of the field of lizard ecology. This compilation of innovative studies suggests both that lizards continue to receive wide appreciation as model organisms for evolutionary and ecological problems, and that lizard ecology continues, as a field, to provide fruitful ground for a variety of research topics. However, for the casual herp enthusiast or lizard husbander, this volume may prove more technical than will be of general use. Although Karen Overall's study (chapter 3) analyzing temperature and hydric conditions during lizard embryonic development may offer some general applications to herp breeders, the chapters of this volume contain rigorous and often sophisticated analyses, which, like the first and second volumes of Lizard Ecology, require that the reader have a basic understanding of experimental method and statistics, and a genuine interest in the progress of lizard systems for scientific research.

This third volume of Lizard Ecology is the product of a 1993 symposium sponsored by The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists and the Herpetologists League. The resulting text contains fourteen chapters in four parts, respectively devoted to: reproductive ecology, behavioral ecology, evolutionary ecology, and population and community ecology. Although research contributions by the 20-odd authors are not intended to summarize the field of lizard ecology, nevertheless, these exemplary works (along with a bibliography of over 800 entries) provide a useful reference guide to topics (new and old) that have received the spotlight of this science for the past three decades. Included in the text are short and insightful introductions to each of the four sections written by several of the original pioneers of lizard ecology. These overviews address progress and controversies in each field,

identifying connections among the following chapters and suggesting interesting directions for future research.

An inevitable theme underlying the volume as a whole, is the application of systematic rigor to the interpretation of comparative data. Whether analyzing the importance of reproductive costs in life history evolution (Lin Schwarzkopf, chapter 1), or investigating differences in species diversity among communities (Jon Losos, chapter 14), the contributing authors illustrate the importance of viewing adaptationist explanations with caution in the absence of a good phylogeny. For the novice (and perhaps tentative) phylogeneticist, Emilia Martins (chapter 6) and Ted Garland (chapter 11) present highly readable and gentle introductions to techniques and applications of phylogenetics. Martins uses phylogenetic techniques to study the evolutionary origins and ecological processes underlying lizard territorial behavior and suggests ways in which phylogenies themselves may be used to generate testable hypotheses. Garland's study on the taxonomic distribution of lizard endurance capacities should be read by any student yet unfamiliar with the term "independent contrasts." Other chapters vary considerably in their analytical sophistication. Don Miles's comprehensive study on coevolution of locomotory performance and morphology in Sceloporines will likely be a challenge for readers unpracticed in multivariate statistics.

Although I found Lizard Ecology to be an excellent reference text for specific research problems, this book is not casual reading by any means. The illustrations are largely graphic representations of data, and chapters for the most part require as much time and patience as scientific journal articles. Nevertheless, as a researcher, this book has already proved to be a good investment for me. I highly recommend it to anyone with a strong interest in the scientific study of lizards.

Book Review

FROGS

by D. Badger & J. Netherton. 1995. Voyager Press, Stillwater, MN, 144 pp. Hardcover.

Breck Bartholomew

Unlike most books being published about amphibians and reptiles today, this book is directed to the general populous rather than to herpetologists. In fact it is a "coffee table book," with many very nice color photographs. The authors do not claim to be herpetologists; Badger is a professor of journalism and Netherton a professional photographer. As a result the book consists of general natural history information that will be appealing to most readers. The text is very readable and contains relatively few errors.

In compiling the book the authors have chosen to "include species based on their unusual markings, calls, poisons, or behavior." Most of the species included, however, are from the U.S., particularly the eastern states. The remaining species are made up mostly of popular pet trade species. My impression is the book covers species that Netherton has been able to photograph, rather than "unusual species" as the authors indicate. Nonetheless, the intended audience should be pleased with the coverage since most of the species will be familiar.

Range maps are included for many of the species but not all. This inconsistency was the most distracting characteristic of the book.

While maps are presented for most of the U.S. species, they are missing for most of the foreign species. I believe most readers would like to know where each species lives and range maps for all of the species should have been included.

In addition to the main text, are several poems, tidbits, and facts about frogs. These additions are placed in the margins and make the book more appealing to the general public. The primary feature of the book, however, is the photographs.

Netherton has obviously devoted a lot of time and money to photographing frogs. All of the photographs are of high quality, although occasionally a photograph looks a bit too "setup." The book is worth its price just for the photography.

All in all I would recommend this book to anyone interested in frogs, especially if you like to look at them. If you are looking for a good book about captive care or the biology of frogs this is not the book. The text is informative and the few errors will not be noticed by most readers. The May/June 1996 issue of *Reptile & Amphibian Magazine* includes some extracts from this book as well as some of Netherton's photographs.

Book Review

A GUIDE TO THE FROGS AND TOADS OF BELIZE

by John R. Meyer and Carol Farneti Foster. 1996. Krieger Publishing Company, Malabar, Florida. 80 pp., Hardcover, \$24.50. ISBN 0-89464-963-9

Breck Bartholomew

Central and South America have an incredible diversity of amphibian and reptiles species, yet there are currently few field guides available for these areas; at least in the US. Thus Meyer & Foster's new guide to the anurans of Belize is very welcome contribution to the herpetological literature. Although little "new" information is provided, the book compiles information from a variety of sources to make the identification of frogs and toads of the Belize area much more accessible.

Belize is a small country (8,867 sq mi), about the size of New Hampshire (9,304 sq mi), yet it is home to 33 anuran species. Meyer & Foster divide the country into nine regions based on vegetation types. Each of these vegetation types are briefly discussed at the beginning of the book as are the climate and topology of the country. In addition, photographs are presented for each vegetation type.

After a brief introduction to the country's environment is a short summary of anuran biology. The bulk of the book consists of species accounts. Each account consists of a color photograph, common and scientific names, descriptions of the species entire range, distribution in Belize, distinguishing characteristics, habitat and habits, breeding and in many cases special remarks about the species.

All of the species accounts are contained within facing pages. In most cases there is a substantial blank space following the account. Information in the accounts is general and identifications rely heavily on photographs of the species. Discussion of similar species is provided and should aid in identification.

I believe the above is a fair summary of the book, but it is not complete without noting what is missing from the guide. I would

have liked to see distribution maps of the species in Belize. The one map provided in the beginning of the book is of very poor quality and does not indicate the vegetational provinces used by the authors, nor many of the other landmarks used in the discussion of distribution. There is certainly space for a small map to be included for each species within the current layout of the book. I would also like to see a taxonomic key. Photographic identification guides are fine for most purposes, but a key is necessary when an unusual variation is found. It would be particularly useful in a country like Belize where new species are still being discovered. Finally, some discussion of egg and tadpole identification would have been nice for those species which the information is known. Perhaps some illustrations of these could have been included too.

My other complaints about the book deal more with layout and editing which should have been corrected by the publisher. The book is made up of three signatures which appear to have full color printing on both sides of each. This means color photos could be placed anywhere in the book. Yet the placement of the habitat photographs is annoying; appearing at the front of the book before the cover-page, before the preface, between the introduction to species accounts and the first account, and between the last account and the references. Not only this but, none of them are cross-referenced in the text to indicate where they are or that they are even included in the book! In addition, the quality of some of the photographs is downright poor.

Krieger has published a number of good books, but several of their recent publications lack attention to detail and demonstrate

experimental layout & design which distract from the usefulness of the books. Nonetheless, I would recommend this book to those who plan to travel in or near Belize and to anyone interested in Central

American frogs. However, I hope a second edition is planned which includes more information, maps, keys, and better photographs.

International Herpetological Symposium

20th Anniversary Meeting

June 27-29 1996

Sheraton Fiesta Hotel San Antonio, Texas

WITH A FOCUS ON THE HERPETOFAUNA OF
MADAGASCAR & VICINITY
and an assortment of other presentations

EVENTS:
Icebreaker
Barbeque at the San Antonio Zoo
Banquet dinner

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
W. Ronald Heyer, Ph. D.

BANQUET SPEAKER:
William W. Lamar

PARTIAL LIST OF SPEAKERS:

Chris Raxworthy, Ph. D.	Gordon W. Schuett, Ph. D.	Nancy Hager
Ronald Nussbaum, Ph. D.	L. Lee Grismer Ph. D.	Dave & Tracy Barker
Suzanne & Joseph T. Collins	Ron Tremper	John Tashjian
Clay M. Garrett	John Arnett	Rick Hudson
David Grow	Mark Bayless	Gary W. Ferguson, Ph. D.
David Crews, Ph. D.	Ronn Altig, Ph. D.	Harry Miller, D. V. M.
John Behler	Michael Davenport	James B. Murphy, D.Sc.
Bill Love	Marcia Ryback	Ray Pawley
	Richard A. Ross M. D., M. P. H.	

Registration before May 15th is \$125.00. For registration or other information, Contact David Hulmes: 361 Van Winkle Avenue; Hawthorne N.J. 07506 (201) 427-0768. Hotel Reservations must be made directly with the Sheraton (800) 535-1980. Be sure to mention I. H. S.

Great Herp Trips: Want to see tropical herps where they live? Want to go with the best experts on the globe? Renowned authorities in herpetology and herpetoculture like Bill Lamar, Jim Murphy, Howard Lawler, Louis Porras, Dick Ross, Terry Vandeventer, Philippe de Vosjoli... Want to see and photograph dozens of

amphibian and reptile species? How about fantastic tarantulas? If you dream of seeing your favorite herps in the wild, or if you want to see things nobody in the U.S. has ever seen, you need to contact **Green Tracks**, P.O. Box 5299, Tyler, Texas 75712, or P.O. Box 9516, Berkeley, California 94709. Telephone 1-800-9-Monkey, anytime day or night.

Classified Ads:

For Sale: Two bloodlines of Sinaloan milksnakes, *Lampropeltis triangulum sinaloae*. Due to hatch in mid-July. \$60.00/each. Call Mike Egan (410) 442-2650.

For Sale: Tangerine Honduran milksnakes, *Lampropeltis triangulum hondurensis*, & various Rosy boas, *Lichanura trivirgata* ssp. Reserve yours now. Hans (801) 673-6149.

Herper's Flotilla - Adventure, adrenaline, and great herps too. Join Herp Quest on a thrill-filled white water rafting tour that takes you off the beaten path, letting you check out scenery and herpetofauna of Southern Utah's Canyonlands in totally pristine, undisturbed habitats. A fantastic getaway week of rafting, hiking, photography and relaxing around the campfire with other herpers. August 24 - September 1, \$1,250.00 all inclusive. Brochures and herp list for Canyonlands: (619) 630-3058 Fax (619) 631-3802.

Honduras Natural History Exploration - September, 96, Kenya Herpers Safari - October, 96, Trinidad Exploration - December 96, Cold-Blooded Australians - January, 97, Herps of Israel - May 97 & more. Brochures & Information: Herp Quest (619) 630-3058 Fax (619) 631-3802.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF HERPETOCULTURISTS. A non-profit national membership organization of herpetoculturists, veterinarians, academicians, and zoo personnel involved in the captive husbandry and propagation of amphibians and reptiles. Membership includes the highly acclaimed *The Vivarium* magazine, dedicated to the dissemination of information on herpetocultural accomplishments, herpetological medicine, breeding & maintenance, field studies and adventures, enclosure design and much more. Membership in the AFH is \$26.00. Send information requests to, AFH-News, PO Box 300067, Escondido, CA 92030-0067.

Utah Association of Herpetologists
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INTERNATIONAL REPTILE BREEDER'S CONVENTION

An exposition and trade show open to the public consisting of literally thousands of live reptiles and amphibians. You will be able to see (and purchase) spectacular reptiles produced by some of the top herpetoculturists from around the world. World class herpetologists will also be speaking at the two day event.

Some animals that will be presented include:

- Rare Australian Frilled Lizards •
- Giant Boas and Pythons •
- Baby Galapagos Tortoise •
- Captive Bred Chameleons •

Plus, every conceivable product manufactured for use in herpetoculture will be displayed for sale. These are the largest events of this kind on the West Coast, and IRBA's fifth consecutive year producing world class reptile events. Attendance usually tops 5,000.

June 29-30, 1996 and November 16-17, 1996 at Mesa Community and Conference Center, **Mesa, Arizona** 85211-1466.

July 13-14, 1996 and October 5-6, 1996 San Diego Concourse, Plaza Hall, **San Diego, California** 92101.

For more information contact Ray Busby, Phone/Fax (619) 263-6898, IRBA, P.O. Box 85152-279, San Diego, CA 92186.

No meeting scheduled this month